

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00255 291356Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 /092 W
 -----291421Z 024996 /43

P R 291334Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3253
INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS PARAMARIBO 0255

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, NS
SUBJ: KTPI REJOINS GOVERNMENT

REF : PARAMARIBO 0245

1. ARRON GOVERNMENT HAS REGAINED ITS MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT WITH DECISION OF KTPI ANNOUNCED AT PARTY MEETING MARCH 27 TO RETURN TO NPK GOVERNING COMBINATION. SUPPORT OF KTPI'S TWO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT GIVES NPK 21 SEATS IN 39-MEMBER PARLIAMENT, A WORKING MAJORITY WHICH GOVERNMENT HOPES TO USE IN PUSHING THROUGH SEVERAL IMPORTANT PIECES OF LEGISLATION WHICH HAVE BEEN STALLED DURING PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY RESULTING FROM SOEMITA AFFAIR.

2. KTPI MEETING, WHICH WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY PRIME MINISTER ARRON AND NPS PARTY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN VAN GENDEREN AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF NPS MEMBERS, APPOINTED THREE-MAN COMMISSION INCLUDING MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AMAT AND FORMER SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER SOEPERMAN TO CONDUCT PARTY AFFAIRS AND PREPARE FOR THIS YEAR'S ELECTION. NOTHING HAS YET BEEN SAID ABOUT POSSIBLE RETURN OF ANY KTPI MEMBERS TO THE CABINET BEFORE ELECTIONS.
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3. ALTHOUGH ARRON AND NPK APPEAR TO HAVE GAINED A POLITICAL VICTORY WITH RETURN OF KTPI, FULL IMPACT OF KTPI DECISION REMAINS TO BE SEEN. HONORARY CHAIRMAN AND FOUNDER OF THE KTPI, IDING SOEMITA (FATHER OF FORMER AGRICULTURE MINISTER SOEMITA), DISPUTES THE DECISION, CALLING MARCH 27 GATHERING A MEETING OF THE NPS RATHER THAN THE KTPI AND INSISTING HIS SON REMAINS

PARTY CHAIRMAN. MEANWHILE, A LOCAL NEWS AGENCY REPORTS THAT THE YOUNGER SOEMITA HAS DECIDED TO RECLAIM THE SEAT IN PARLIAMENT HE WON IN 1973, WHICH COULD MEAN REDUCTION OF NPK'S MAJORITY TO 20 SEATS, ONE OF WHICH BELONGS TO AN NPS MEMBER WHO HAS BEEN TOO ILL TO ATTEND PARLIAMENT MEETINGS. HOWEVER, PUBLIC MEETING OF PARLIAMENT REQUESTED BY OPPOSITION TEN DAYS AGO TO DISCUSS POLITICAL SITUATION HAS NOW BEEN CALLED FOR MARCH 29, INDICATING GOVERNMENT EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO CONTROL SITUATION FOR THE TIME BEING.
LORTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEGISLATORS, PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARAMA00255
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770107-0481
Format: TEL
From: PARAMARIBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770311/aaaaajfw.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 119101b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PARAMARIBO 245
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2960011
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KTPi REJOINS GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PINT, NS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/119101b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009